

# Family quilt finds home with historical society

By Michaela Kennedy

Quilting is a traditional pastime across many world cultures, and breathes new life into long-forgotten dry goods. The spreads created offer families and communities an artistic chronicle of generations gone by. Overlay artists, and those that understand the tradition, agree that a quilt is the ultimate example of reuse.

The Jamestown Historical Society recently received a quilt that has lived on the island through four generations. Before the owner died two years ago, she requested that, if no one in her family wanted it, the relic be given to a local preservation society, preferably in town.

Jo-Ann and Alton "Bud" Head III inherited the quilt when the previous heir, Caroline Brayman Hull, Bud's mother, passed on two years ago. Jo-Ann speaks fondly of her mother-in-law, and shares her love of history. "Bud's mother was an antique fanatic," Jo-Ann recalls. Since no surviving relatives in Caroline's family wanted the quilt, Jo-Ann jumped at the chance to receive it. "I thought it was an interesting quilt, and still in pretty good shape," she said.

Jo-Ann claims she is not much of a quilter herself, but loves history. She showed the quilt to friends and other quilters, who also noted the artwork. A neighbor, who spends summers in Jamestown and is a member of the Rhode Island Quilters Association, revealed to Jo-Ann that the textile was layered. "I don't think Caroline knew it was a quilt upon a quilt," Jo-Ann muses. The neighbor recommended giving it to the historical society. "If it's unusable, then it should go to a historical society," Jo-Ann said, recalling the friend's advice.

Jo-Ann enjoyed the stories Caroline used to share with her about her artifacts. She remembers the first time she noticed the quilt, made from old dresses and other cloth fragments, laying on an upstairs bed in her mother-in-law's house. "It meant something to her because she was named after her grandmother," Jo-Ann remembers.

Jo-Ann and her husband now live in Caroline's house on North Main Road, a stone's throw from the farmhouse where the original quilter resided. "Caroline loved her

grandmother. She could look out the window and see her grandmother's light on over on Rosemary Lane," Jo-Ann said.

Rosemary Enright, president of the JHS, commented on the beauty of the treasured addition to the island's collection of antiquities. "We were delighted to get an artifact that is not just from a long-time family on the island, but that demonstrates the craftsmanship that went into it," she said.

The collection contains several types of textiles, from an 1890 wedding dress to the more recent designs of Fools' Rules T-shirts. "Textiles can be difficult to maintain," Enright adds.

Despite the difficulty, the historical society makes every effort to save the precious soft goods. Together with other preserved local textiles, the comforter has found haven in the basement vault of the town hall. No plans have been set yet to display the quilt, but it will be catalogued and eventually displayed in an exhibit where it is appropriate, Enright said.



Jo-Ann Head displays a historic quilt that her family recently donated to the Jamestown Historical Society. The quilt is two quilts layered on each other and sewn together and has been through four generations of Jamestown families.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

## USDA housing programs available for Jamestown residents

By Sam Bari

The USDA Rural Development announced that special office hours will be held at the North Kingstown Senior Center, Wednesday, March 26, from 3 to 6 p.m. The center is located at 10 Beach St., North Kingstown.

Interest parties will have an opportunity to speak to a USDA Rural Development Area Specialist about their eligibility for USDA housing

programs and complete a housing application if they so desire.

This public meeting is for residents of North Kingstown and surrounding areas. Eligible rural housing communities in the surrounding areas are North Kingstown south of Stony Lane, Exeter, Jamestown, Narragansett and South Kingstown.

USDA Rural Development has funds available through its Single

Family Direct Home Loan program for very low-income rural homebuyers. This program provides individuals and families with an opportunity to purchase or build a home with no down payment and financing up to 100 percent. The agency also administers a Guaranteed Rural Housing Program that assists moderate-income applicants to purchase homes in rural areas with no money down.

Through USDA Rural development's Home Improvement Loan and Grant Program, funds are available for heating, electrical and plumbing repairs, storm windows, well and septic system repairs, insulation, roof and system repairs and construction of ramps for accessibility.

Very low income families and individuals can receive loans at a one percent interest rate directly from

USDA Rural Development. Very low-income homeowners who are 62 years of age and older and lack repayment ability for a loan are eligible for home improvement grants that do not have to be repaid. While grant funds are generally limited, loan funds are readily available.

Further information can be found on the Internet at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa).

## JAMESTOWN JEWELS

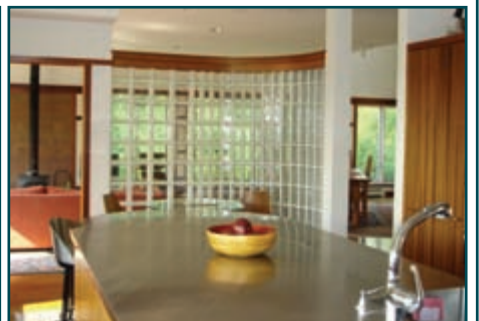
### EAST PASSAGE WATERFRONT RETREAT



Panoramic water views are enjoyed from "Winding Ways", a sun-swept, 2800 sq. ft., 3-bedroom contemporary home with an open floor plan, living room and family room with fireplaces, and expansive decks on 3.52 acres with 155 ft. of beach frontage. Two moorings and a dock are possible.

GLORIA KURZ, Listing and Selling Broker

### DUMPLINGS CONTEMPORARY



Exceptional 3,775 sq. ft. home on 1.69 acres with deeded beach rights to Green's Pier, custom kitchen, wonderful living spaces, mahogany decks with water views a studio/office above three-car detached garage and, a separate 1.33 acre vacant lot.

GREER BEECROFT, Listing Agent

### BEAVERTAIL BEAUTIES



Unique opportunity to own a waterfront and/or water-view property overlooking Hull Cove and the Atlantic Ocean. A charming one-bedroom waterfront retreat on .50 acres with 120 ft. of waterfront is offered at \$1,500,000. A 1,909 sq. ft. water-view cottage is offered at \$695,000. Both homes are offered together at \$2,095,000

### SPARKLING SEASIDE GEM



Captivating water and Jamestown Bridge views abound from this 3,200 sq. ft., sun-filled home with 73 ft. of beach frontage on the West Passage of Narragansett Bay, a fabulous kitchen with fireplace, great dock and two moorings. \$1,799,000

### DRAMATIC WATERVIEW CONTEMPORARY



Set on a park-like 1.85 acres, with frontage on Rosamond Pond and deeded beach rights, this tastefully finished three-bedroom contemporary has sweeping water views of the West Passage, a fabulous kitchen, great room with fireplace, entertainment deck and, gracious master suite. \$1,495,000

### HARBORVIEW CONDOMINIUM



Stylishly renovated two-bedroom, one-level unit with gourmet kitchen, water-side deck and lush gardens is perfectly sited across from the water with spectacular views of the Newport Bridge and scenic Jamestown Harbor. \$850,000

"WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE, ONE HOME AT A TIME"

7 FERRY WHARF  
JAMESTOWN, RI 02835  
401.423.7000

**Mansions  
& Manors**  
The Personalized Real Estate Service

59 BELLEVUE AVENUE  
NEWPORT, RI 02840  
401.848.5555

[www.mansionsmanors.com](http://www.mansionsmanors.com)